

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 22, 24, 34-47, and 50-51 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 2-3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-21, 25-33, and 48-49 being canceled, Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 22, and 34 being amended, and Claims 50-51 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 22, 24, 26, and 31-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujisaki (U.S. Patent No. 4,789,928) in view of Ortega et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,958). This rejection is moot with respect to the canceled claims and respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

As previously communicated, the present invention is directed to a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for purchasing music piece data from a server on a network, such as the Internet. With respect to Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, and 22, the claim invention is more specifically directed to a system having a removable external storage device that stores various display information data for displaying on a user terminal virtual screens that emulate a plurality of pre-selected merchant sites, such as an on-line merchant website on the Internet. The external storage device also stores address information for each of the emulated merchant sites so as to direct a user's browser to that merchant's actual website so that the actual website can be displayed on the user terminal. One advantage provided by the claimed invention is either the ability to browse for products without being actually connected to the Internet, or significantly increase the speed of product browsing by reducing the amount of the information needing to be downloaded from the Internet. More importantly, by pre-selecting merchant websites that offer the desired product (in this instance music-piece data), the present invention reduces the user's burden of searching through the Internet for appropriate merchants that may or may not be suitable or safe to conduct purchase transactions. When the user has actually chosen a product and a merchant, then the merchant's actual website can be called up by the stored address information (such as an URL) for completing the transaction.

With respect to independent Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, and 22, neither Fujisaki nor Ortega contain any disclosure of displaying an emulation screen that imitates a screen of a predetermined music piece data selling sites (as recited in the claims). Rather, Fujisake simply discloses an auction information communication system in which laser disks containing information associated with used cars are stored and can be displayed. The Examiner points to the video disk player 53 in Fig. 3 of Fujisake as a disclosure of displaying emulation screen that imitates a screen of a predetermined music selling site; however, the video display player 52 simply contains data directed to information related to the used cars for sale, and does not contain any display information for generating images of an emulation screen. Ortega, which fails to make up for this deficiency of Fujisake, and does not contain any disclosure whatsoever directed to emulation screens. Instead, Ortega is simply directed to a search engine that compensates for misspelling of search terms entered by a user.

With respect to independent Claim 24, neither Fujisake nor Ortega contain any disclosure of selecting a partial music piece data on a client apparatus and then obtaining the partial music piece data from a server connected to the client apparatus over a network. The Examiner simply does not point to any portion of Fujisake or Ortega that remotely discusses selecting partial piece of music.

With respect to Claim 34, neither Fujisake nor Ortega contain any disclosure of an external storage medium storing information for objects related to music piece data sets, whereby the objects have different display modes. Specifically, in the first display mode, the display information of an object is linked over a network to a server for downloading a music piece data corresponding to the displayed object, and, in the second display mode, a visual presentation of the object is retrieved from a directory of files located within the external storage medium. The Examiner's rejections does not make any mentions as to where in Fujisake or Ortega exist any disclosures related to different display modes for a given object.

With respect to Claims 40 and 44 (and new Claims 50 and 51), neither Fujisake nor Ortega contain any disclosure or suggestion of receiving a second request information

designating a portion of a display music piece for sale, and in response creating a partial music piece data that is representative of the music piece and corresponding to the portion of the music piece designated by the second request information. Col. 3, lines 35-45 of Ortega, as pointed out by the Examiner, is simply a background description of a conventional retail on-line website, and does not contain any teachings or disclosures directed to partial music pieces.

Finally, Applicants respectfully traverse the combination of Fujisake and Ortega. Specifically, Fujisake, on the one hand, is directed to an on-line auction of used cars, while Ortega, on the other hand, is directed to correcting spelling errors in user search queries. The Examiner does not point to any portions of either Fujisake or Ortega that provides any motivation for combining the two references.

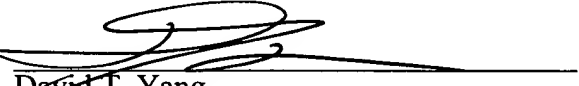
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Fujisake and Ortega. If the Examiner believes it would further advance the prosecution of the present application, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 39303.20243.00.

Respectfully submitted,

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